



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
June 6, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Jahn Dyvik (arrived at 5:04), Mike Feldmann, Gina Joyce, and Deirdre Kvale

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske; Fire Chief: Mike Heiland, Battalion Chief: Chris Adams; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

**Absent:** None

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Mayor Miner stated that he would like to switch the order for Agenda Items No. 4 and No. 6.

*A motion was made by Miner, seconded by Feldmann, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: all.*

**OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

**Lori Goodsell, 2206 Watertown Road** – Ms. Goodsell had submitted the following comment to be read aloud by City Clerk Moeller:

*As a 17-year resident of Long Lake and Planning Commission member, I am happy to see discussion of the THC and edible legislation on the table. I would love to see zoning restrictions on businesses that sell this. Legal or not, all the little marijuana shops make a town look cheap and trashy. Driving somewhere else to buy weed to keep our town nice seems a good compromise. I feel like this about smoke shops too but it seems too late for that (and that looks tacky too now that every window is lit up). I would much prefer to add to the look of a classy town versus add to the tacky factor. Thanks for considering my opinions.*

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Discussion of Edible Cannabinoids and THC/CBD Legislation**

Moeller recalled that the City currently has a moratorium in place that prohibits the sale of edible cannabinoids through sometime in August. She advised that newly adopted legislation had made the sale of edible cannabinoids legal at off-sale liquor stores; however, the City's moratorium prevents the liquor stores from registering to do so until it expires. She had reviewed the matter with City Attorney Thames and discussed options available. She explained that the City would be unable to prevent these products from being sold but could potentially limit them to certain places, for example, to places that have tobacco licensing. She stated that she believes creating a license structure for these businesses right away would be premature because she thinks the City would ultimately want to create an ordinance that is more thoughtful and contains everything that they need to have in place by January 1, 2025. She noted that the League of Minnesota Cities is also working on putting together model ordinances right now, as is the state. She advised that City

Attorney Thames is currently recommending that the City consider a second moratorium to prohibit the sale and licensing of recreational cannabis until there is an opportunity to study it more closely and evaluate the model ordinances that the State puts together.

Council member Dyvik asked if the City could extend the current moratorium.

Moeller responded that typically a moratorium is a one time only measure. She indicated that the City could adopt a different moratorium to prohibit the sale and licensing of recreational cannabis. She clarified that edible cannabinoids are things like gummies and seltzers.

The Council discussed edible cannabinoids; the effect of maintaining the current moratorium on the City's liquor stores; options for business licensing; and creation of a moratorium for recreational cannabis sales and use. The Council directed staff to research what the City can and cannot do for registering/licensing edible cannabinoids.

Moeller noted that she would have more information for the Council at their next meeting regarding edible cannabinoids and what the City can and cannot do moving forward.

Council member Dyvik expressed his concern that making edible cannabinoids in the form a gummy means that it is basically being marketed to children because most adults do not consume gummies. He understood that legally they cannot be sold to anyone under 21, but feels it is obvious that the makers are trying to appeal to children.

Moeller confirmed that she would reach out to the liquor stores and keep them in the loop regarding some of the discussion and concerns that had been shared by the Council, and would be prepared with more information on edible cannabinoid regulation for the next Council meeting.

Council member Dyvik questioned whether someone wanting to sell marijuana brownies would fall under something being considered an edible cannabinoid. He voiced concern that these actions would bring the City down a road that it would regret later.

### **Discussion of Fire Department Matters**

Mayor Miner reported that he had received a call from the Mayor of Minnetonka Beach earlier in the week who expressed a desire to stay engaged with the City and shared that they have been very happy with the service provided by the Long Lake Fire Department. They indicated that they would like to keep their service with the Long Lake Fire Department. He mentioned that the Fire Advisory Board met earlier in the day and reviewed a draft of the proposed 2024 budget.

The Council discussed the potential for duty crews; the proposed 2024 budget and CIP; and the inaccurate data that was formally presented by Orono regarding 16-minute response times by Station 2 for calls.

Council member Dyvik stated that for the next Fire Board Advisory meeting he would like to have information on what the annual CIP contribution is per year, but would also like to see an accounting of what the balance should be. He suggested that the data include as far back as 2017, clarifying that 2017 was when the last big purchase was made, and he would like to see what the situation 'should' be today. He commented on the importance of being able to see where things should be and then to be able to show a plan for getting caught up, but added that he understands that Orono will reject anything they come up with.

### **Updates from Fire Department Leadership**

Fire Chief Heiland shared that he had met with the Loretto Fire Chief, soon to be West Suburban Fire Chief, a few times and stated that he feels it is clear that the Long Lake Fire Department fits

into their puzzle. He indicated that he would like to begin the process of pursuing that avenue because the process could take years. He reflected that there is encouragement from all over the State to merge fire departments. While he does feel Long Lake and West Suburban Fire would be a really good fit, he added that a partnership with them doesn't really provide an answer to the Station 2 dilemma. The thought would be that the Long Lake Fire Department would cover more of Medina and many all calls around the area.

Council member Dyvik asked if the Council could get a sense of what the coverage areas would be.

Heiland noted that the district, as a whole, would be about 80 square miles and he believes that Corcoran may also be a part of this effort eventually. He stated that he could start plugging in information and details in order to get more concrete answers for the Council.

Council members discussed duty crews, call volume for Station 1, Station 2 crews, possible partnerships with other communities, and the desire to keep the firefighters together.

Heiland added that he has an upcoming meeting with other area Fire Chiefs and has had conversations with the State Fire Marshal's office as well.

Council member Feldmann and Battalion Chief Adams gave an overview of data related to call response times under various scenarios for the last 11 years in comparison with the 16-minute call response time that was stated at the May 22, 2023 Orono City Council meeting. They expressed the opinion that the numbers shared at the Orono City Council meeting do not make sense with the available data. They questioned whether Orono was layering in the lag from when a call went into 911 before it was actually dispatched to the Fire Department, but noted that the Fire Department does not have any control over when calls are actually dispatched.

The Council reviewed how this information could be shared during the regular City Council meeting later in the evening.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/WORK SESSION COUNCIL REPORTS**

No other business was discussed.

#### **ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 6:26 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske  
City Administrator